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THE ART OF READING.

The Practice and Patience Necessary to

its Requirement.

There is an art of reading, although

many who read never master it; an art

to be acquired, as all arts are acquired,

by long and patient practice. Those

who learn this art not only read books,

but remember them; not only gain the

enjoyment of the first keen impression

of a writer's style and thought, but

make his thinking a part of their own

intellectual possession forever after.

There are people who are continually

making the casual acquaintance of

books, but never establish relations of

enduring friendship and intimacy with

them. They recall books as they them

from time to time, but they do not re-

call what they once knew of them.

There is contact, but no cohesion.

Between such reader and the books that

have passed under his eye. This kind

of superficial knowledge with literary

works is not without its advantages, but

it is not the kind of knowledge that

results of reading; it retains a vague

recollection instead of the vitality, im-

pulse and power of another's mental

struggles and achievements.

The art of reading for mastery of

what one reads lies in concentration of

attention. The trained reader finds no

difficulty in abstracting himself from

the noise and crowd of the horse car

and putting all his mind on the printed

page before him. For the moment

there is no "Utopia" or the marvelous

island where Prospero works his spells

more real to him than the people or

the scene actually about him. Every-

body who frequents book-stores has no-

ticed men who have fallen for some

curious or unfamiliar book, and are

straightway oblivious of everything else.

They have for the moment escaped

from the mesh of the tides of life around

them, and found a quiet of thought, at

once restful and inspiring. All the

great scholars have mastered this art of

concentration; it is the secret of their

achievements. No one can read Ben

Jonson's plays and missages, so full of

allegory and the resources of scholar-

ship, or Milton's splendid prose, en-

riched with the spoils of all ages; or

Gray's few but lasting contributions to

English verse, so pervaded with the

scholar's spirit, without recognizing be-

hind these noblest achievements of mind

and art a training so sustained and

prolonged as to add a certain nobility

of character to the work of the language-

man.

To acquire this art of concentration,

commence with the first good book that

comes in hand. Read and re-read it

until you find yourself absorbed in

it; until you have forgotten that there

is anything in the world but the book

and its reader. Your thought must

be for a long time after. Your attention

will be diverted by trifles around you;

the least noise or motion will lift your

eye from the line before it; so it has

been with every student who has tried

how to abstract himself from his sur-

roundings and to concentrate himself

upon the thing in hand, and so it will

be to the very end of time. The trained

mind is separated from these first irre-

solute and feeble efforts by one thing

only—practice. To learn the art of

concentration one must concentrate his

mind again and again, patiently and

resolutely, until, little by little, his

effort becomes habit. When the habit

is formed the mind has resolved its in-

terest and will to work with uncon-

ting case and efficiency, until one is no

longer conscious of effort or resolution

or labor.—Christian Union.

A FOOL'S PHILOSOPHY.

Some Conclusions Whose Elaboration Re-

quired Half-Century of Thought.

A lantern is better than no fire on a

WANTS AN UNKIVERING.

GARRETTSTOWN, KY., May 12.

Some time has elapsed since I scrib-

bled you a letter.

I once asked a sentimental young

body, whose cheeks vied in beauty

with the peach that of the sea-shell,

and whose blue eyes passion slept

like summer's lightning in the cloud-

less skies, "What two lines in Byron

are the prettiest and sweetest?" A

tear moistened her longing eyes, like

drops on a morning rose, as she

looked towards the surging sea and

replied:

"And that of things from a distant clime

Lead a weary wing to flagging time."

Her "lover," seeking adventure

across the "briny billows," I under-

stood, had failed to rattle her of his

undying devotion. Not only tears,

but whole showers of grief, doubt-

less, have long since bedimmed your

eyes and your countenance wears

on account of the protracted silence

of your Garrettstown correspondent.

I can not have the heart to leave this

branch of my subject without the ex-

planation that the above is true, in

Pitcair, in a Pickwickian sense.

Garrettstown is very dry—whiskey

has gone—John Allenworth and

King Kinchloe, with all their fash-

ion and calico have gone; the mar-

ble and the fragrant bird (conquered by

the profuse English sparrow) have gone;

poor Henry Garrett has gone; the

silent Mr. Brown has gone and Gar-

rettstown is left, like a broken-

down, lying in the dust of the

river of destiny to wither and crisp in

the summer sun. There is no hope for

it, unless Ross comes to the rescue

with ginger pop and lemonade dash-

ed with ice. "The fragrant bird" and

the profuse English sparrow are

spontaneously shooting up in the

midst of our streets and

sidewalks, and as far as the eye can

see along our magnificent Boulevard

crowded on either side with archite-

ctural splendor, can be seen the wa-

spensts in the old porticoes. If it were

not a wicked wish, I'd wish one hun-

dered and one more stranger would

come here and die, be resurrected and

buried over by some "14,000" New

Yorker, and let Garrettstown have a

monument, an unveiling and a boom.

Dr. Talmage would doubtless come

and orate; "Old Willie, the Mayor and

oldest citizen would have an original

address of welcome read; Lawyer

White would make the formal pro-

clamation and happy Paddy Ryan's

little blue eyed girl, who came down

on the narrow gauge yesterday even-

ing, might be prevailed upon to re-

main, pull the string and unveil the

whole panorama. What an electric

thrill of pleasure and delight such an

unveiling would give to the

14 citizens of Garrettstown and the

surrounding country! How it would

revive and boost it up! Mr. Editor,

can't you help us in the consumma-

tion of a glorious scheme? If I

have a committee appointed, who

will bring about another war of suf-

ficient magnitude to kill 101 strange

fellow and we think 14 citizens above

spoken of, will raise, by subscription,

funds enough to put the whole thing

through in 24 hours. And then, I

had like to have forgotten it, there is

a fellow close by here who has a note

book in bank and he has kindly in-

terested in the accumulating interest

to keep the whole affair fresh and

green.

No news of interest to write. The

event of the season, Mr. Fitzhugh's

school exhibition and concert near

field, has come and gone, attended

with more than usual success. Messrs.

Heil and Clardy, of the great city of

HOWELL.

HOWELL, KY., May 22nd.—Your

columns have recently been filled

with so much of a more interesting

nature that I have deferred any com-

munication that I might otherwise

have made. In fact it seems impossi-

ble for me to give you any news items

